



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE VATICAN ARCHIVES¹

OF all the great repositories of historical documents, the archives of the Papacy possess the widest interest. Other collections may contain more for the history of the particular country in which they have been formed, but the papal archives are unique in being international and universal as well as local. During a period of seven hundred years the collections of the Vatican reflect every phase of the many-sided activity of the Roman church; of the first importance for Rome and Italy, they at the same time contain material for the history of every part of Catholic Christendom, however obscure or remote. "The keys of Peter are still the keys of the Middle Ages," wrote Pertz after his brief visit to the Vatican in 1823, and recent explorations under more favorable conditions have served to confirm the statement as essentially true of the later Middle Ages and to extend it to certain parts of the modern period as well.² It is the purpose of this article to indicate briefly the nature and contents of the Vatican collections and to show the directions in which research and publication have been most active since the archives became accessible to students.

It should be remarked in the first place that the present papal archives, extensive as they are, represent but a relatively small portion of the immense mass of documentary material which has at one time and another been the property of the Holy See. Besides the enormous number of documents which were sent out from Rome in the ordinary course of business and which one would naturally expect to find elsewhere, the papal archives themselves have suffered from carelessness, plunder, and the accidents of numerous transfers, so that the greater part of their contents

¹ My acknowledgments are due to Father Ehrle, prefect of the Vatican library, and to the sub-archivist, Monsignor Wenzel, for their kindness on the occasion of my visits to the Vatican; I am also indebted to Hofrath von Sickel, director of the Austrian Institute in Rome, and Dr. von Ambros, its librarian, to M. Coulon, of the École Française de Rome, to Señor Altamira of Madrid, and to Dr. Koser, director of the Prussian archives.

² *Archiv der Gesellschaft für ältere deutsche Geschichtskunde*, V. 24. Compare Munch, *Aufschlüsse über das päpstliche Archiv*, Berlin, 1880, and Pastor, *Geschichte der Päpste*, preface to Vol. I.

has passed into other hands or disappeared. While a place for the deposit of archives is known to have existed at least as early as the time of Damasus I. (366-384),¹ the present collection contains no originals of the early Middle Ages and no continuous series before the pontificate of Innocent III., and in the subsequent period the gaps are numerous and important. Serious losses undoubtedly took place in the course of the wanderings of the archives from place to place during the Middle Ages and again on the occasion of their transportation to Paris by order of Napoleon I., but it must be remembered that the documents were preserved primarily, not as historical sources, but as evidences of papal rights or as aids in the transaction of business, so that much which would have the greatest interest at the present time was doubtless destroyed by the officials themselves as of no permanent value. Then, too, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, when no clear distinction was made between public and private papers, the archives suffered from spoliation at the hands of the great Roman families, in whose private libraries many important series must now be sought. The Archivio di Stato at Rome also possesses documents and copies from the papal archives, acquired by the suppression of the Roman monasteries, and other pieces are still more widely dispersed.

The various groups of documents which at present constitute the archives of the Holy See do not form a single collection under one administration. Just as in the various European states there exist separate archives of war, of marine, of foreign affairs, etc., so the various departments of the papal administration have their own repositories of records and papers, separately preserved for the recent period at least, when, as in some cases, the earlier series have been united with the central collection. It thus happens that besides the principal collection there exist the separate archives of the Consistory, the Dataria Apostolica, the Tribunal of the Rota, the Secretaria Brevium, the Signatura Gratiae, the Penitentiary, and the Master of Ceremonies, as well as those of the congregations of the Index, the Holy Office, and the Propaganda, and the special repositories belonging to the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's.² The only one of these that is regularly open to

¹ Bresslau, *Handbuch der Urkundenlehre*, I. 120 ff., where the history of the papal archives is briefly traced.

² See particularly Hinojosa, *Los Despachos de la Diplomacia pontificia en España*, I. xlv.-lv. The archives of the Master of Ceremonies, containing the greater part of the papal diaries, are described by Ehrle in the *Archiv für Literatur- und Kirchengeschichte des Mittelalters*, V. 587-602.

scholars is the more ancient part of the archives of the Consistory, whose historical importance was first brought to general notice by Pastor. Here are preserved the acts of the Consistory and many of the reports and documents upon which these acts are based, extending from the beginning of the fifteenth century and containing material of much value for ecclesiastical history.¹ The archives of the Propaganda, for some years open to the public, are now closed, as their constant use by investigators was found to interfere with the current business of the congregation. The series, which is unusually complete, is of capital importance for the missionary labors of the Roman church; it has been explored particularly with reference to the religious history of Bohemia and the southern Slavs.² Leaving these lesser archives aside, we shall concern ourselves chiefly with the great central collection, the Archivio Segreto Vaticano, the Vatican archives *par éminence*.

Long kept rigorously secret and utilized only by the officials and by certain exceptionally favored historians,³ the Archivio Segreto has become freely accessible to students through the liberality of the present Pope. The signs of the new policy were manifested in 1879, when Professor Hergenröther of the University of Würzburg, one of the foremost Catholic scholars of his day, was promoted to the rank of Cardinal and placed in charge of the archives, which were thus put on an equality with the library. After the necessary preparation had been completed, the archives were formally thrown open in January, 1881.⁴ Since that date the

¹ See Pastor, *Geschichte der Päpste*, I². 689-693, and the detailed account, with extracts, in Korzeniowski, *Excerpta ex libris manu scriptis Archivi Consistorialis Romani*, Cracow, 1890.

² On the archives of the Propaganda in general and the various publications from them before 1887, see Pieper in the *Römische Quartalschrift*, I. 80-99, 259-265.

³ Pertz, Palacky, and some others succeeded in seeing certain pieces; the Norwegian scholar, P. A. Munch, seems to have been the only outsider admitted within the precincts of the archives, and this by a stretch of authority on the part of Theiner, who was then archivist. Cardinal Antonelli is said to have remarked that only three persons were allowed to enter the archives, namely, the Pope, the archivist, and himself; whoever else entered without a special dispensation of the Pope was ipso facto excommunicated. *Archivalische Zeitschrift*, V. 78.

The earlier publications from the archives lie beyond the scope of this article; that they were by no means inconsiderable may be seen by reference to the various Bullaria, Raynaldi's continuation of the *Annales Ecclesiastici* of Baronius, and the numerous collections edited by Theiner.

⁴ Of the numerous articles called forth by the opening of the archives see in particular Gottlob in the *Historisches Jahrbuch*, VI. 271 ff., and Löwenfeld in the *Historisches Taschenbuch*, 1887, 281 ff. The attitude of Leo XIII. toward historical studies is set forth in an interesting letter to Cardinals Luca, Pitra, and Hergenröther, August 15,

archives have been enriched by the purchase of the Borghese collections and by the transfer of valuable series from the Lateran, a larger consultation room has been provided, and an excellent reference library, the Bibliotheca Leonina, has been formed for the use of workers in the archives and manuscripts of the Vatican.¹ Leo XIII. has in other ways shown his interest in historical studies, notably by the establishment of the Historical Commission of the College of Cardinals, for the encouragement of the study of history among the Italian clergy, and by the institution in the Vatican of courses of systematic instruction in paleography and diplomatics, designed particularly for the training of archivists for the pontifical and other ecclesiastical archives.²

Access to the archives is now granted by the prefect to every investigator, without distinction of faith, upon the receipt of a written application accompanied by an official recommendation or a personal letter to one of the archivists. The archives are open every morning from half-past eight until twelve, with the exception of Sundays, Thursdays, and festivals and during the short vacations which occur at Christmas, Carnival time, and Easter. They are also closed from June 28 to September 30 inclusive, so that the actual number of working days averages scarcely more than three a week throughout the year. The well-lighted consultation room, situated on the ground floor, under the library and opposite the papal gardens, has seats for about sixty readers; although larger than the room formerly in use, it is frequently crowded, so that regular attendance is necessary to insure a place. Visitors are struck at once by the air of quiet activity which pervades the room, and the evident determination of every one to make the most of the short time at his disposal. In general, documents anterior to 1815 are freely communicated, although the archivists may reserve pieces of a private nature (*carattere riservato*) "which cannot be given publicity for reasons of public interest, religious and social." Notes and copies must be submitted to examination before being taken away.³ Where the exact indica-

1883, to be found in Vering's *Archiv für katholisches Kirchenrecht*, L. 428 ff., and in a French translation in the *Revue des Questions Historiques*, XXXIV. 353 ff.

¹ Opened in 1893. See *Historisches Jahrbuch*, XIV. 477-483.

² The exercises of the school, which was established by Motu Proprio of May 1, 1884 (*Studi e Documenti di Storia e Diritto*, VI. 106-108), are by permission open to others besides members of the clergy. During the past year they have been attended with profit by students of the American School of Classical Studies.

³ Regulations established by Motu Proprio of May 1, 1884. They are published, as of 1894, in the *Revue Internationale des Archives, des Bibliothèques, et des Musées*, series *Archives*, I. 97.

tion is known, documents are brought promptly, but every extended investigation is likely to involve numerous delays and difficulties, for while there are excellent inventories and indexes prepared in the last century, these are not freely accessible nor are their indications always sufficiently sure or precise. "It is true of the Vatican archives more than of others," says Sickel,¹ "that only a part of the material for a given subject lies on the surface; merely to get track of the rest requires, not only tedious search, but the active assistance of the officials, who alone are familiar with the contents and disposition of the archives and able to follow up what is scattered and misplaced." It should be added that the archivists freely and cheerfully give such assistance, so far as their time permits, and their helpfulness is warmly appreciated.

A description of the contents of the Vatican archives is a matter of some difficulty, as no general inventory has been published, and the system of classification is in many cases the result of historical accidents rather than of the application of any logical principle. In the following brief account emphasis has been laid upon the historical interest of the various groups of documents rather than upon the details of their arrangement.²

Probably the most important section of the Vatican archives is the great series of *regesta*, consisting of copies of papal letters, which extends with few breaks from the time of Innocent III. The order of the letters in the volumes is roughly chronological; in course of time they were divided into various classes (*litteræ curiales, communes, camerales*), according to subject matter or form. Beginning with the papacy of Boniface IX., two series were kept, one at the Vatican and one at the Lateran, and we later find still other registers for the less formal types of letters—breves, signatures, etc.—which came into existence in the course of the fifteenth century.³ To the historical student these volumes of registers are invaluable. They preserve the contents of a vast number of bulls and breves otherwise unknown, and even where

¹ *Mittheilungen des Instituts für österreichische Geschichtsforschung*, XIII. 371.

² According to Ehrenberg (*Italianische Beiträge zur Geschichte der Provinz Ostpreussen*, X.) the number of volumes in the Vatican archives is estimated at 2,450,000. Detailed descriptions exist for many parts of the collection; it would be a great convenience if some one would bring them together into a manual which should indicate, so far as is at present known, the character, number of volumes, and chronological limits of each series. At present the best summary account is that given by Langlois and Stein in their *Archives de l'Histoire de France*, 743-757.

³ See Palmieri, *Ad Vaticanum archivi Romanorum pontificum Regesta Manuductio*, Rome, 1884, a useful inventory of the registers with some account of the history of the collection.

the originals have been preserved, comparison with the registers yields important results for the science of diplomatics. As may be seen from any of the published volumes, the subject matter of the registers is of the widest possible variety, and relates to all parts of Christendom; nowhere else does one gain so vivid an idea of the widespread activity of the Papacy and its intimate relations to every phase of contemporary life. Besides constituting an official and unimpeachable source for papal history, the registers are of much importance for the local, and particularly the ecclesiastical, history of the various countries of Europe, and they yield valuable information for economic history and for the history of literature and the arts. Since 1881 the attention of scholars has been busily devoted to the registers, so that they may now be considered the best known portion of the archives. The registers of Innocent III. were printed by Baluze in the seventeenth century; those of Honorius III. have recently appeared as an official publication from the Vatican, while the registers of the other popes of the thirteenth century and of Benedict XI. have been undertaken by members of the French school at Rome, and those of Clement V. by the Benedictines of Monte Cassino. After the beginning of the pontificate of John XXII. the amount of material contained in the registers becomes so vast that scholars have given up the idea of publishing it in full, and have contented themselves with excerpting that which relates to each country or locality. The only general publication for the later period is the registers of Leo X., begun by Cardinal Hergenröther and discontinued since his death.¹

¹ Pressutti, *Regesta Honorii papæ III.*, Rome, 1888-1895. *Regestum Clementis papæ V.*, Rome, 1885-1888; a concluding volume of indexes is in preparation. Hergenröther, *Leonis X. pontificis maximi Regesta*, Freiburg i. B., 1884-1888. Of the series published under the auspices of the École Française the only publication as yet complete is the registers of Honorius IV., edited by Prou. The others are appearing with varying degrees of rapidity—Gregory IX. by Auvray; Innocent IV. by E. Berger; Alexander IV. by Bourel de la Roncière, de Loye, and Coulon; Urban IV. by Dorez and Guiraud; Clement IV. by Jordan; Gregory X. and John XXI. by Guiraud and Cadier; Nicholas III. by Gay; Martin IV. by Soehnée; Nicholas IV. by E. Langlois; Boniface VIII. by Digard, Faucon, and Thomas; and Benedict XI. by Grandjean. A number of letters from the registers of the thirteenth century, copied by Pertz for the *Monumenta Germanie Historica* in 1823, have recently been published under the editorship of Rodenberg: *Epistolæ sæculi XIII e Regestis pontificum Romanorum selectæ*, Berlin, 1883-1894. See also the beautiful volume of facsimiles published by Denifle, *Specimina palæographica Regestorum Romanorum pontificum ab Innocentio III ad Urbanum V.*, Rome, 1888.

The more important of the local publications will be mentioned below under the countries concerned. For the numerous discussions of the diplomatic questions arising in connection with the study of the regesta, reference must be made to special works on

A valuable supplement to the registers is formed by the *libri supplicationum*, or records of the petitions in answer to which the papal bulls were issued, which often contain interesting matter omitted in the bulls. The series begins with Clement VI., but is by no means complete; it has been utilized particularly by Denifle, and after him by others who have concerned themselves with the history of universities.¹

Scarcely inferior to the registers in interest, are the documents relating to the financial administration of the Holy See, which first become abundant toward the close of the thirteenth century, when the increased need of money and the decline of the income from the patrimony of St. Peter began to lead to the development of new sources of revenue and a more complete system of financial administration. Besides the financial material contained in the registers, of which a special series of *regesta cameraria*² was formed under Urban IV., we have, for the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, six hundred volumes of *collectorie* and nearly four hundred of *introitus et exitus camere apostolicæ*. The *collectorie*, together with the related series *libri obligationum* and *libri solutionum*, contain reports of the collectors sent out from Rome into the various parts of Europe, records of payments made directly to the papal treasury, and minutes of the financial obligations of bishops, abbots, and other high ecclesiastics. In addition to their direct value to the student of papal finance, the reports of the collectors are of considerable importance for ecclesiastical geography and local history, and constitute a source of the first rank for the monetary history and general economic conditions of the period.³ The *introitus et exitus* comprise two sorts of records, the

papal diplomatics. An idea of the activity with which research has been carried on in the registers may be gained from Schmitz, *Uebersicht über die Publikationen aus den päpstlichen Registerbänden des XIII.-XV. Jahrhunderts vornehmlich seit dem Jahre 1881*, in the *Römische Quartalschrift* for 1893 (VII. 209-223, 486-491).

¹ See in general Kehr, in *Mittheilungen des Instituts*, VIII. 84 ff., and Erler in *Historisches Jahrbuch*, VIII. 487 ff.; and with special reference to the history of universities, Denifle, *Die Universitäten des Mittelalters*, I. xx., the cartularies of Paris and Montpellier, and Fournier, *Les Statuts et Privilèges des Universités Françaises*, with Denifle's additions.

² On which see Ottenthal, in *Mittheilungen des Instituts*, VI. 615-626.

³ Besides the earlier publications of Theiner and Munch, see especially Kirsch, *Die päpstlichen Kollektorien in Deutschland während des XIV. Jahrhunderts*, Paderborn, 1894, and the first volume of the *Monumenta Vaticana Hungariae*. The *libri obligationum* have been of much assistance to Father Eubel, who is engaged in the preparation of a more correct *Series Episcoporum*. The value of the financial records of the Papacy as a source for local history is exemplified by Glaser, *Die Diözese Speier in den päpstlichen Rechnungsbüchern, 1317 bis 1560*, published as Vol. XVII. of the *Mittheilungen des historischen Vereines der Pfalz* (1893).

books in which the various officials noted their receipts and expenditures, and the general accounts in which the items of the year were entered. Expenditures are given in minute detail, payments for oil and tapers, oats and fodder, the wages of the cook and other domestics appearing along with those for larger matters, so that an excellent idea is afforded of the daily life of the papal household.¹ Taken with the *regesta cameraria*, these accounts indicate very exactly the different directions of papal activity; they have been utilized by Ehrle and Faucon for the history of the papal library, and by Müntz and Faucon for the history of art, and are capable of furnishing information on many other subjects.²

Recent researches in the archives have thrown light upon several of the sources of papal revenue, notably the *census*³ and the annates,⁴ the taxes for the Crusades,⁵ the taxes of the chancery⁶ and the penitentiary,⁷ and the expenses attendant upon letters of provision⁸ and upon ordinations and consecrations at Rome;⁹ but many questions still remain obscure. Indeed, the whole matter of papal finance is one of the least understood subjects in the history

¹ See, for examples, the first volume of appendices to the *Regestum Clementis papæ V.* Interesting items of household expenditure were published by Gregorovius in the *Historische Zeitschrift*, XXXVI. 157-173, from volumes in the Archivio di Stato at Rome; Gregorovius was surprised at the simple and economical style of living they indicate among the Popes of the fifteenth century. On the abundant material for papal finance in the Archivio di Stato see Gottlob, *Aus der Camera Apostolica des 15. Jahrhunderts*, Innsbruck, 1889, and Meister, *Auszüge aus den Rechnungsbüchern der Camera Apostolica zur Geschichte der Kirchen des Bisthums Strassburg*, in *Zeitschrift für die Geschichte des Oberrheins*, VII. 104-151. Papal accounts from the library at Prato are given in the *Archivio Storico Italiano* for 1884.

² See the works cited by Langlois and Stein, 753. Hayn, *Das Almosenwesen unter Johannes XXII.* (*Römische Quartalschrift*, VI. 209-219), publishes the first installment of a study of papal charities on the basis of the *introitus et exitus* of the Avignonese period.

³ Fabre, *Étude sur le Liber Censuum de l'Église Romaine*, Paris, 1892; see also his edition of the *Liber Censuum* and various briefer articles on the same subject.

⁴ Kirsch, *Die Annaten und ihre Verwaltung in der zweiten Hälfte des 15. Jahrhunderts*, *Historisches Jahrbuch*, IX. 300-312.

⁵ Gottlob, *Die päpstlichen Kreuzzugssteuern des 13. Jahrhunderts*, Heiligenstadt, 1892.

⁶ Tangl, *Das Taxwesen der päpstlichen Kanzlei vom 13. bis zur Mitte des 15. Jahrhunderts*, *Mittheilungen des Instituts*, XIII. 1-106; and compare Bacha in the *Compte-rendu des séances de la Commission royale d'Histoire de Belgique*, 1894, 107 ff.

⁷ Denifle, *Die älteste Taxrolle des apostolischen Pönitentiaries*, *Archiv für Literatur- und Kirchengeschichte des Mittelalters*, IV. 201 ff.; Lea, *The Taxes of the Papal Penitentiary*, *English Historical Review*, July, 1893.

⁸ Mayr-Adlwang, *Ueber Expensrechnungen für päpstliche Provisionsbullen des 15. Jahrhunderts*, *Mittheilungen des Instituts*, XVII. 71-108.

⁹ Schmitz, *Die Libri Formatuarum der Camera Apostolica*, *Römische Quartalschrift*, VIII. 451-472.

of the Middle Ages, and this in spite of its great importance. The administration of the Roman Camera appears to have been exceptionally systematic and complete, as regards both division of functions and control, and its development and possible influence upon other systems possess special interest for the student of economic and institutional history. How far, if at all, the financial measures of the Popes contributed to produce discontent with the ecclesiastical system, is another problem whose solution can come only from a careful examination of the nature of the various sources of papal income, and the amounts actually collected in the various parts of Europe. Such questions have of late years begun to attract attention from scholars, and it is to be hoped that special studies in the archives will be continued until it will be possible to write, with impartiality and a full knowledge of the sources, an adequate history of papal finance.¹

A source of great value for the history of modern Europe is found in the papers of the papal secretariat,² of which the most important are the instructions and reports of the nuncii, collected into six thousand volumes and classified into twenty-one groups according to the places where the nuncii were stationed. The various series of reports begin at different dates in the sixteenth century, and are far from complete, although the collections of the Vatican may frequently be supplemented by those of the private libraries of Rome. The reports of the nuncii have been examined for the history of several countries of Europe,—notably for that of Germany in the epoch of the Counter-reformation,—but their study is attended with various difficulties, and the amount so far published is relatively small. The origin and development of the system of permanent nuncii is itself a chapter of diplomatic history as yet little understood.³ The collections of

¹ "Der Mangel einer vorurtheilsfreien, documentarisch gut belegten Finanz- und Verwaltungsgeschichte der römischen Curie während des Mittelalters gehört zu den empfindlichsten Lücken unserer historischen Litteratur." Tangl, in *Mittheilungen des Instituts*, XIII. 1. Some phases of the financial history of the Papacy are treated by Gottlob, *Aus der Camera Apostolica des 15. Jahrhunderts*, cited above; König, *Die päpstliche Kammer unter Clemens V. und Johannes XXII.*, Vienna, 1894; Miltenberger, *Versuch einer Neuordnung der päpstlichen Kammer in den ersten Regierungsjahren Martins V.*, *Römische Quartalschrift*, VII. 393-450; Kirsch, *Die Finanzverwaltung des Kardinalcollegiums im 13. and 14. Jahrhundert*, Münster, 1895.

² Friedensburg, in the *Nuntiaturberichte aus Deutschland*, first series, I. xvi. ff.; Hinojosa, I. 1-24; Langlois and Stein, 751, 754.

³ See Friedensburg's introduction, and Pieper, *Zur Entstehungsgeschichte der ständigen Nuntiaturen*, Freiburg i. B., 1894, intended as an introduction to an edition of the instructions of the nuncii from the pontificate of Julius III. to the Thirty Years' War. Also various articles of Meister, especially *Die Nuntiatur von Neapel im 16. Jahr-*

the secretariat also contain a great number of letters from eminent personages in all parts of Europe (*lettere di principi, cardinali, vescovi e prelati, particolari, soldati, lettere diverse*), belonging to the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries, and useful for supplementing the correspondence of the nuncii, and as an independent source.

The archives of the Vatican possess several collections of a miscellaneous nature, many of them ill-arranged and as yet but little explored, comprised mainly in the series "Armario," "Instrumenta miscellanea," and "Instrumenta castelli Sant' Angelo." Their contents are of the most varied character, including numerous originals of imperial charters and papal bulls, letters of kings and princes, papal diaries, reports of visitations and proceedings before legates, and considerable material on purely Italian affairs. Important sections relate to the Great Schism and the Council of Trent.¹

From the very opening of the Vatican archives, scholars have been busily occupied in exploring and publishing their contents and in studying the numerous problems to which exploration and publication have given rise, so that the books and articles which have grown directly or indirectly out of labors at the Vatican represent a very considerable proportion of the historical output of the last fifteen years. An enumeration of everything of this nature that has appeared would prove of little interest to the readers of this Review, even were the material at hand for a bibliographical task of such magnitude; it has, however, seemed worth while to indicate the principal lines along which research at the Vatican has been active, and, in particular, to give some idea of the work there carried on by organized effort on the part of the various European countries. Some mention of recent publications has been inevitable in dealing with the contents of the archives; repetition of works already cited will, as far as possible, be avoided.²

hundert, Historisches Jahrbuch, XIV. 70-82. A good illustration of the historical value of the reports of the nuncii is found in Philippson's article, *Die römische Curie und die Bartholomäusnacht, Deutsche Zeitschrift für Geschichtswissenschaft*, VII. 108-137.

¹ Langlois and Stein, 754-756; *Nuntiaturberichte aus Deutschland*, first series, I. xix.-xxiii.; Kehr, *Die Kaiserurkunden des vatikanischen Archivs, Neues Archiv*, XIV. 343-376; Fabre, *Note sur les Archives du Château Saint-Ange, Mélanges de l'École française de Rome*, 1893, 3-19; Sickel, *Römische Berichte*, reprinted from the *Sitzungsberichte* of the Vienna Academy, 1895.

² I know of no attempt at a complete bibliography of publications from the Vatican archives. The list of Schmitz, already cited, is useful for the registers; many titles are given in the bibliography of the publications between 1885 and 1891 relative to the

The oldest of the institutions engaged in the exploration of the Vatican archives is the École Française de Rome, which began as an offshoot from the school at Athens in 1873 and attained a distinct organization in 1875. The school is supported by the French government and is under the direction of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, subject to the control of the minister of instruction. The director, at present the Abbé Duchesne, is chosen for a period of six years. Six members are appointed each year by the minister from among the candidates submitted by the École Normale Supérieure, the École des Chartes, and the École des Hautes Études. The appointments are renewable for a second or third year; usually there are also a few associate members. The work of the school includes archæological and philological, as well as historical, studies, but research in the archives always occupies the attention of some of the members, — notably of those who have profited by the admirable training of the École des Chartes. The principal undertaking of the school — the publication of the registers of the Popes of the thirteenth century — was begun as early as 1879, and has not yet been completed; the volumes already issued form the most important series of publications that has been made from the Vatican archives, and reflect great credit upon the school. In recent years, the historical investigations of the school have centred about the registers of the Avignonese Popes, where, as complete publication is out of the question, owing to the immense amount of material, they have been confined to the entries relating to French affairs and to the special diplomatic problems involved. One member has also studied the *regesta cameraria* of this period. The resources of the Vatican have also been utilized in many other publications of the French school, notably in Fabre's studies of papal administration and in the important works of Müntz and Faucon upon the history of art.¹

history of mediæval Italy, which appeared as the twelfth number of the *Bulletino dell'Istituto Storico Italiano*, Rome, 1892.

In the following account emphasis is laid on the results of the organized and systematic explorations conducted by the various missions and institutes. In addition to the publications of individuals noted under particular countries, certain works which rest largely upon researches in Roman archives deserve special mention. Such are: Pastor, *Geschichte der Päpste seit dem Ausgang des Mittelalters*, Freiburg i. B., 1891 ff.; Valois, *La France et le Grand Schisme d'Occident*, Paris, 1896; Schottmüller, *Der Untergang des Templer-Ordens*, Berlin, 1887; Albanès, *Gallia Christiana Novissima* . . . I. (Province of Aix), Montbéliard, 1895.

¹ Reports upon the work of the École Française appear in the *Compte-rendu des séances de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-lettres*; the latest is in the January-February number, 1896, 92-100. A list of the members since 1873 is printed in the

The materials for German history in the Vatican archives are very abundant, and their exploration has been undertaken from many different quarters. Among the first in the field were the representatives of the Munich Historical Commission, who collected and published important acts for the history of the Empire under Louis the Bavarian.¹ Soon the historical commissions of Württemberg and Baden and the directors of the series of sources published in Westphalia, Mecklenburg, and the province of Saxony had their agents at work in the Vatican, as did also the provincial authorities of Brandenburg, Posen, and East and West Prussia.² Documents have also been collected for the ecclesiastical provinces of Cologne, Trier, and Hamburg-Bremen, as well as for a number of dioceses within and without their limits. Such investigations, carried on independently with reference to the history of each state or locality, naturally involve great waste of effort, since the ground must be gone over anew in each case, and the results are sometimes exceedingly meagre. To obviate this difficulty, the two leading German representatives of historical studies in Rome, the Prussian Institute and the Görresgesellschaft, have undertaken, first, to prepare a "Repertorium Germanicum," or calendar of all the entries relating to German affairs in the registers of the later Middle Ages, and second, to publish the reports of the German nuncii of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The work has been so apportioned that the Prussian Institute takes the registers from 1378 to 1448; the Görresgesellschaft, those from 1448 to

periodical organ of the school, *Mélanges d'Archéologie et d'Histoire*, XVI. 3-12. Together with the school at Athens, the school at Rome publishes the *Bibliothèque des Écoles d'Athènes et de Rome*, an octavo series for monographs and a quarto series for the regesta, etc., where the more extended contributions of its members appear. An examination of the reports of the nuncii in France was planned not long ago, but I am not aware that it has as yet led to definite results.

¹ Riezler, *Vatikanische Akten zur deutschen Geschichte in der Zeit Kaiser Ludwigs des Bayern*, Innsbruck, 1891; compare the earlier publications of Reinkens and von Löher in the same field. The Vatican archives have also been examined for the edition of the acts of the imperial diets, and the commission originally planned to publish the reports of the nuncii of the Reformation period as a supplement to this series.

² Schneider and Kaiser, *Württembergisches aus römischen Archiven*, Stuttgart, 1895 (*Württemberg's Geschichtsquellen*, II. 355-566); Schmidt and Kehr, *Päpstliche Urkunden und Regesten aus den Jahren [1295-1378], die Gebiete der heutigen Provinz Sachsen und deren Umlande betreffend*, Halle, 1886-1889 (*Geschichtsquellen der Provinz Sachsen*, XXI., XXII.); Finke, *Die Papsturkunden Westfalens bis zum Jahre 1378*, I. Münster, 1888 (*Westfälisches Urkundenbuch*, V.); Ehrenberg, *Urkunden und Aktenstücke zur Geschichte der in der heutigen Provinz Posen vereinigten ehemals polnischen Landesheile*. . . . Leipzig, 1892; Ehrenberg, *Italianische Beiträge zur Geschichte der Provinz Ostpreussen*, Königsberg, 1895. Other local researches and publications are mentioned in the *Römische Quartalschrift*, VII. 216 ff., 487, and in the *Deutsche Zeitschrift für Geschichtswissenschaft*, VIII. 176.

1517 and the earlier volumes of Martin V. With reference to the nuncii, the agreement finally reached by the various investigators that had already begun work in this field assigns to Prussia the reports before 1560 and after 1605 as well as those for the period 1572-1585; the Görresgesellschaft has those between 1585 and 1605, while the important years 1560-1572 are reserved for the Austrian Institute.

The Prussian Institute, founded in 1888, is under the general supervision of the Berlin Academy of Sciences, and the immediate control of a commission of three, consisting at present of Professors Wattenbach and Lenz and the director of the Prussian archives, Dr. Koser. In Rome the institute is represented by a secretary, Dr. Friedensburg, two regular assistants, and a varying number of other workers; the expenses of publication are borne jointly by the Prussian archives and the ministry of education. Thus far eight volumes of the reports of the nuncii have appeared;¹ work for the *Repertorium Germanicum*, which receives a special subsidy from the emperor's private funds, has been carried on in the registers of Eugene IV., and the first volume is now in press.

The historical section of the Görresgesellschaft, instituted "for the encouragement of the sciences in Catholic Germany," has its regular representatives at Rome, under the direction of Dr. Ehses, and is one of the most active agencies in the scientific utilization of the Vatican archives. Besides two volumes of reports of German nuncii, the society has published an important body of documents relating to the divorce of Henry VIII. of England, and has begun a series of valuable contributions to the history of papal finance.² Work has also been carried on in the registers of Mar-

¹ *Nuntiaturberichte aus Deutschland nebst ergänzenden Aktenstücken*, Gotha and Berlin, 1892 ff. First period edited by Friedensburg: I. *Nuntiaturen des Vergerio*, 1533-1536; II. *Nuntiatur des Morone*, 1536-1538; III. and IV. *Legation Aleanders*, 1538-1539. Third period, edited by Hansen and Schellhass: I. *Der Kampf um Köln*, 1576-1584; II. *Der Reichstag zu Regensburg, Der Pacificationstag zu Köln, Der Reichstag zu Augsburg* (1576-1582); III. *Die süddeutsche Nuntiatur des Grafen Bartholomäus von Portia*, 1573-1574. Fourth period, edited by Kiewning: I. *Nuntiatur des Paleotto*, 1628; a second volume in press.

Reports on the work of the institute appear in the *Sitzungsberichte* of the Academy; see also Sybel's preface to the first volume of the *Nuntiaturberichte* (first period).

² *Quellen und Forschungen aus dem Gebiete der Geschichte. In Verbindung mit ihrem Historischen Institut in Rom herausgegeben von der Görresgesellschaft*. Paderborn, 1892, ff. I. I, Dittrich, *Nuntiaturberichte Giovanni Morones vom deutschen Königshofe*, 1539-1540. II. Ehses, *Römische Dokumente zur Geschichte der Ehescheidung Heinrichs VIII. von England, 1527-1534*. III. Kirsch, *Die päpstlichen Kollektorien in Deutschland während des XIV. Jahrhunderts*. IV. Ehses and Meister, *Die kölnische Nuntiatur, 1585-1587*. (Inventories of the *collectorie* and the *introitus et exitus* have been pre-

tin V. and Hadrian VI., and a complete edition of the acts of the Council of Trent is in preparation, and is to be accompanied by the various private diaries and minutes of the council's proceedings. Studies from Rome also appear in the society's review, the *Historisches Jahrbuch*.

The researches of Austrian scholars in the papal archives, begun in accordance with imperial decree in 1881, have been conducted almost entirely under the auspices of the Austrian Institute of Historical Studies directed by Theodor von Sickel. The institute, whose present organization dates from 1890, is supported by the Austrian government; its regular members, who receive an annual stipend, are appointed each year by the minister of education on the recommendation of the director in Rome and the director of the Institut für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung in Vienna.¹ In the choice of subjects for investigation members of the institute enjoy considerable freedom, while at the same time emphasis is laid upon the careful and thorough methods which characterize the Austrian school of diplomatics. Of their publications the greater number relate to German history in the century following the interregnum and to the organization and procedure of the papal chancery.² Mention should also be made of the important studies of the director in regard to the documents of the German emperors,³ the

pared and are to be published. The last report of the work of the society in Rome will be found in the *Historisches Jahrbuch*, XVII. 224-226.)

¹ *Statut für das Istituto Austriaco di Studi Storici*, Vienna, 1893; director's reports in *Mittheilungen des Instituts*, VI. 203-223; XIII. 367-376, 663-667. The publications of the institute down to the close of 1893 are described by Starzer in the *Oesterreichisches Literaturblatt*, II. Nos. 21-24.

² On the history of the empire: Fanta, Kaltenbrunner, and Ottenthal, *Actenstücke zur Geschichte des deutschen Reiches unter den Königen Rudolf I. und Albrecht I.*, Vienna, 1889 (Vol. I. of the *Mittheilungen aus dem vatikanischen Archive*, published by the Vienna Academy); Starzer and Redlich, *Eine Wiener Briefsammlung zur Geschichte des deutschen Reiches und der österreichischen Länder in der zweiten Hälfte des XIII. Jahrhunderts* (Vol. II. of the same collection); Werunsky, *Auszüge aus den Registern der Päpste Clemens VI. und Innocent VI. zur Geschichte des Kaiserreichs unter Karl IV.*, Innsbruck, 1885; id., *Geschichte Kaiser Karls IV. und seiner Zeit*, Innsbruck, 1880-1892.

On the chancery: Sickel, *Liber Diurnus Romanorum Pontificum*, Vienna, 1889; Tangl, *Die päpstlichen Kanzleiordnungen von 1200-1500*, Innsbruck, 1894; Ottenthal, *Die päpstlichen Kanzleiregeln von Johannes XXII. bis Nicolaus V.*, Innsbruck, 1888; Kaltenbrunner, *Römische Studien*, Innsbruck, 1884-1886; and numerous briefer studies of the same authors in the *Mittheilungen des Instituts*.

³ Sickel, *Das Privilegium Otto's I. für die römische Kirche vom Jahre 962*, Innsbruck, 1883; Sickel and Bresslau, *Die kaiserliche Abfertigung des Wormser Concords, Mittheilungen des Instituts*, VI. 105-139; and Italian documents contributed to the *Studi e Documenti di Storia e Diritto*, VI., and to the *Notizie e Trascrizioni dei Diplomi imperiali e reali delle Cancellerie d'Italia*, 1892.

monographs of Wahrmund on modern papal elections,¹ and the numerous contributions of Starzer to Austrian local history. The institute has pushed forward its preparations for the publication of the reports of the German nuncii in the period of the Council of Trent, and the first volume of the series is promised before the close of 1896.

Active investigations at Rome have also been carried on by other parts of the Austrian Empire. For Hungary the fine series of the *Monumenta Vaticana Hungariæ*, edited by Monsignor Fraknói and published under the auspices of the higher clergy of the kingdom, well illustrates the resources of the various sections of the Vatican archives and forms a contribution of the highest importance to Hungarian history.² Bohemia has been represented in Rome since 1887 by two *Landesstipendisten*, who receive a regular subvention from the diet and are ranked as extraordinary members of the Austrian Institute. They have been engaged in a careful examination of the papal registers with reference to Bohemian ecclesiastical history and have also collected important material for the history of the Counter-reformation in Bohemia.³ In the South Slavonic lands the Academy of Sciences at Agram has directed explorations at the Vatican; the documents published come chiefly from the Propaganda and relate to Bulgarian affairs.⁴

Researches in regard to the material for Polish history in the Vatican archives were begun in 1885 at the instance of members of the aristocracy and higher clergy of Austrian Poland. Since 1886 the work has been directed by Professor Smolka of the University of Cracow, under the auspices of the Cracow Academy of Sciences and with the aid of subsidies furnished by the Galician diet and the Austrian minister of education. More than forty

¹ *Das Ausschlussrecht der katholischen Staaten . . . bei den Papstwahlen*, Vienna, 1888; *Beiträge zur Geschichte des Exclusionsrechts bei den römischen Papstwahlen*, Vienna, 1890; also in the *Historisches Jahrbuch*, XII. 784-791, and the *Archiv für katholisches Kirchenrecht*, LXVII., LXVIII., LXXII.

² *Monumenta Vaticana Historiam regni Hungariæ illustrantia*, Budapest, 1884-1891. First Series: I. *Rationes Collectorum pontificiorum in Hungaria, 1281-1375*; II. *Acta legationis Cardinalis Gentilis, 1307-1311*; III., IV. *Bulle Bonifacii IX.*; V. *Liber Confraternitatis Sancti Spiritus de Urbe, 1446-1523*; VI. contains the correspondence of Matthias Corvinus with the Popes. Second Series: I. *Relationes Oratorum pontificiorum, 1524-1526*; II. *Relationes Cardinalis Buonvisi, 1686*.

³ Compare *Mittheilungen des Instituts*, XIII. 376. Dudík's volume on Moravia, *Auszüge für Mährens allgemeine Geschichte aus den Regesten der Päpste Benedict XII. und Clemens VI.* (Brünn, 1885), I have not seen.

⁴ Fermendžin, *Acta Bulgarie ecclesiastica*, Agram, 1888, forming Vol. XVIII. of the *Monumenta spectantia Historiam Slavorum Meridionalium*

volumes of copies, analyses, and inventories of documents relating to the history of Poland have been sent to Cracow for preservation in the library of the Academy, which has published a summary of their contents and some of the material which they contain for the history of the sixteenth century.¹ Important pieces for the history of Prussian Poland have been collected in Rome under the direction of the provincial authorities of East Prussia and Posen, while from the Russian side noteworthy studies have been made by Professor Wierzbowski of the University of Warsaw.²

The investigations conducted on the part of the other nations of Europe can be described more briefly. The English Public Record Office has for several years had an agent at Rome preparing a "calendar of all entries in the Papal Regesta of the Middle Ages which illustrate the history of Great Britain and Ireland;" two volumes have recently appeared,³ covering the period from 1198 to 1342. Norway, Sweden, and Denmark have each a representative in the Vatican archives, and by a coöperative exploration of all the material relating to Scandinavia avoid the waste of time inseparable from a separate examination for each country. Materials for Swiss history have been gathered both from the registers and from the reports of the nuncii, at the instance, in the one case, of the historical society in Basel, and, in the other, of the Allgemeine Geschichtsforschende Gesellschaft.⁴ The Belgian government has twice sent Professor Cauchie of the University of Louvain upon a mission to Italian archives; at Rome he has explored various parts of the registers, of the records of the Camera, and of the reports of the Flemish nuncii.⁵ I know of no publications for

¹ Korzeniowski, *Catalogus Actorum et Documentorum res gestas Poloniae illustrantium quæ . . . expeditionis Romanæ cura 1886-1888 deprompta sunt*, Cracow, 1889; id., *Excerpta ex libris manu scriptis Archivi Consistorialis Romani, 1409-1590*, Cracow, 1890. These have since been combined with other matter to form *Analecta Romana quæ historiam Poloniae sæc. XVI. illustrent (Scriptores Rerum Polonicarum, XV.)*, Cracow, 1894. References to publications in Polish are given in the introduction. See also Lewicki, *Codex Epistolaris sæculi decimi quinti*, Cracow, 1891-1894. Reports on the work of the mission in Rome appear in the *Anzeiger* of the Cracow Academy.

² Wierzbowski, *Vincent Laureo, nonce apostolique en Pologne*, Warsaw, 1887; *Uchansciana*, Warsaw, 1884-1895.

³ Bliss, *Papal Letters*, London, 1893-1895. A brief note on the materials at the Vatican concerning English history appeared in the *English Historical Review*, 1889, 810, where it is stated that the English agent is instructed to carry his investigations to 1688.

⁴ Bernouilli, *Acta pontificum Helvetica*, I. 1198-1268, Basel, 1891. Wirz, *Akten über die diplomatischen Beziehungen der römischen Curie zu der Schweiz, 1512-1552 (Quellen zur Schweizer Geschichte, XVI.)*, Basel, 1895.

⁵ See his *Mission aux Archives Vaticanes, Compte-rendu des séances de la Commis-*

Holland except the collection of bulls concerning the diocese of Utrecht, edited by Brom.¹ With reference to the materials for Spanish history preserved at the Vatican a preliminary examination has been made, under official direction, by Ricardo de Hinojosa, who has just published some of the results in a volume on the despatches of the Spanish nuncios.² Nothing similar has yet been done for Portugal. The papal archives naturally contain less for the history of Russia than for that of Catholic Europe; the amount of material is, however, by no means inconsiderable, as is shown by the various writings of Pierling on the relations of Russia to the Holy See,³ and by the report of his investigations at Rome recently published by Professor Šmourlo of the University of Dorpat.⁴ The Russian government has recently determined to establish an institute at Rome, part of whose time shall be given to historical studies.

Within the Vatican itself the officials have naturally had small leisure to devote to special research, yet the scholars connected with the papal court have not left entirely to outsiders the work of utilizing the archives. We owe to them, and others working under their direction, the publication of three important sets of registers and a considerable amount of scattered material, relating particularly to Italian history,⁵ while mention should also be made of the publications of Pitra and Palmieri on the registers, and of the documents bearing on the German Reformation, brought together by the former archivist Balan.⁶ Material from the archives appears from time to time in the *Studi e Documenti di Storia e Diritto* and in other publications of the Accademia Romana di Conferenze Storico-giuridiche, founded and maintained under papal

sion royale d'Histoire de Belgique, 1892, 185-192, 313-483; and compare the reports of the commission for 1894, 3, 195, and for 1895, 259.

¹ *Bullarium Trajectense* . . . , The Hague, 1891 ff.

² *Los Despachos de la Diplomacia pontificia en España. Memoria de una Misión oficial en el Archivo Secreto de la Santa Sede*, I., Madrid, 1896.

³ *Documents inédits sur les rapports du Saint-Siège avec les Slaves*, Paris, 1887; *Papes et Tsars (1547-1597) d'après des documents nouveaux*, 1890; *La Russie et le Saint-Siège*, 1896.

⁴ *Revue Internationale des Archives*, etc., series *Archives*, I. 135. For Livonia see Hildebrand, *Livonica, vornehmlich aus dem 13. Jahrhundert im vatikanischen Archiv*, Riga, 1887.

⁵ Registers of Honorius III., Clement V., and Leo X., cited above. *Spicilegio Vaticano di Documenti inediti e rari estratti degli Archivi e dalla Biblioteca della Sede Apostolica*, Rome, 1890-1891. *Il Muratori*, Rome, 1892.

⁶ Pitra, *Analecta novissima Spicilegii Solesmensis, altera continuatio*, I., Paris, 1885. Balan, *Monumenta Reformationis Lutherianæ ex tabulariis secretioribus S. Sedis, 1521-1525*, Ratisbon, New York, and Cincinnati, 1884; and *Monumenta sæculi XVI. Historiam illustrantia*, Innsbruck, 1885.

sanction. At present the most active investigators who hold official positions at the Vatican are Father Denifle, custodian of the archives, and Father Ehrle, prefect of the library, both widely known for their valuable contributions to the ecclesiastical, literary, and educational history of the Middle Ages, in connection with which they have drawn freely upon the resources of the papal collections.¹

Of researches at the Vatican with reference to American history there is unfortunately very little to record. Some years ago a Peruvian Jesuit, Father Hernaez, had access to the archives and made some use of them for his collection of documents relating to American ecclesiastical history.² Visitors to the Chicago Exposition will perhaps remember the handsome set of phototype facsimiles from the papal archives which was exhibited in the Convent of La Rabida among the objects relating to the discovery of America. This volume, of which but twenty-five copies were published, *ut illustrioribus tantum bibliothecis distribuerentur*, contains facsimiles and transcriptions of twenty-three letters from the papal registers, relating to the bishopric of Gardá in Greenland,—the first American see,³—the demarcation line between the Spanish and Portuguese colonies, and the sending out of the first missionaries and bishops after the voyages of Columbus.⁴ As most of

¹ See particularly Ehrle, *Historia Bibliothecæ Romanorum Pontificum tum Bonifatianæ tum Avenionensis*, I., Rome, 1890; and Denifle, *Die Universitäten des Mittelalters*, Berlin, 1885, and *Chartularium Universitatis Parisiensis*, Paris, 1889-1894; and the various volumes of their joint publication, *Archiv für Literatur- und Kirchengeschichte des Mittelalters*.

² *Coleccion de Bulas, Breves y otros Documentos relativos á la Iglesia de America y Filipinas, dispuesta, anotada e ilustrada por el Padre Francisco Javier Hernaez, de la Compañía de Jesus*. Brussels, 1879. The work, which was brought out by Fathers Garrastazu and de Uriarte after the author's death and does not seem to be widely known, was undertaken at the instance of the Second Council of Quito. A large part of its contents was drawn from the various Bullaria, with some use of South American archives.

³ In regard to which several pieces have been published by a Dalmatian scholar, Jelič, under the title *L'Évangélisation de l'Amérique avant Christophe Colomb, Compte-rendu du Congrès Scientifique International des Catholiques tenu à Paris, du 1^{er} au 6 avril, 1891*, fifth section, 170-184; *Compte-rendu du troisième Congrès . . . tenu à Bruxelles . . . 1894*, fifth section, 391-395.

⁴ Also a letter of Julius II. commending Latholomew and Diego Columbus to Ferdinand. The volume bears the title: *Documenta selecta e Tabulario secreto Vaticano, que Romanorum pontificum erga Americæ populos curam ac studia tum ante tum paullo post insulas a Christophoro Columbo repertas testantur, phototypis descripta*, Rome, 1893. Compare Ehrle, *Der historische Gehalt der päpstlichen Abtheilung auf der Weltausstellung von Chicago, Stimmen aus Maria-Laach*, XLVI. 367-394. On the establishment of bishoprics in America see also Ehse, *Aus den Consistorialakten der Jahre 1530-1534, Römische Quartalschrift*, VI. 220-236. I am told that some researches have been made for the history of certain North American dioceses, but have no exact information on this point.

these documents were previously known, their publication was of more importance for purposes of exhibition than as an addition to historical knowledge; it will prove of further value if it serve to stimulate among us an interest in the archives and a desire to explore them.

The value and extent of the Roman sources for American history would appear only after a prolonged examination. Unquestionably, the general history of the western world, even of those parts which have always been predominantly Catholic, stands in no such close relation to the papal system as does the history of Europe, and it were vain to expect the same assistance from Roman archives in the one field as in the other. Nevertheless, there is every reason to believe that the Vatican collections contain much of special interest to American students, particularly in regard to the age of exploration and colonization, and the history of Latin America,—in which directions the material is doubtless most abundant, while our opportunity is at the same time the wider, owing to the backwardness of Spain and Portugal in undertaking researches at the Vatican. A systematic and thorough investigation of the American material at the Vatican ought certainly to be made,—either by a specially qualified agent or, better still, by an American School of Historical Studies at Rome. It is not the place here to insist upon the utility of such a school, established upon the general plan of the classical schools at Rome and Athens, and working in friendly coöperation with them and with the historical institutes already founded by European countries. If it were properly organized and directed, I believe a school at Rome would prove of the greatest value, not only by its actual contributions to historical knowledge, but also by its stimulating effect upon the serious study of history among us. Its activities should not be confined to American subjects, but should also include some of the numerous other problems of general interest whose solution lies in the archives and libraries of Rome and other parts of Italy, so that the idea of such an institution ought to appeal to all who are concerned in the progress of historical science in America, regardless of the directions in which their own special studies may lie.

CHARLES H. HASKINS.